

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

Claims 16-38 (previously withdrawn, but are now subject of this present divisional application, and appear below)

Claim 16. (Original) An automotive trim panel, comprising:

a light transmissive pliable cover layer having a first side and a second side,

a light blocking layer covering at least a portion of the transmissive layer,

a light source located on the first side of the light transmissive layer, the light blocking layer allowing light to travel from the light source through the transmissive layer to the second side only where the light blocking layer is not present.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein said pliable ~~cover material~~ cover layer has an elongation of 150%.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein said pliable ~~material~~ cover layer has a tensile strength below 5000 psi.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein said pliable ~~material~~ cover layer has a Shore Hardness between 60-100A.

Claim 20. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, further comprising a foam layer.

Claim 21. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the foam layer includes a void aligned with the light source and the void is filled with a light transmissive material.

Claim 22. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, further comprising a retainer layer.

Claim 23. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the light transmissive layer is transparent.

Claim 24. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the light blocking layer is coupled to the first side of the cover layer.

Claim 25. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the light blocking layer is coupled to the second side of the cover layer.

Claim 26. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the light source is a light emitting diode.

Claim 27. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the light blocking layer is a painted coating.

Claim 28. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 16, wherein the trim

panel is an automotive instrument panel.

Claim 29. (Original) An automotive trim panel, comprising:

a light transmissive cover layer having a front surface and a rear surface,

a light pipe having a first end and a second end, and a light source, wherein said first end of said light pipe is positioned adjacent to said rear surface of the cover layer and said second end is positioned adjacent said light source.

Claim 30. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, including a foam layer, wherein the light pipe is molded in the foam layer.

Claim 31. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 30, wherein the light pipe is inserted in an opening formed in the foam layer by a laser.

Claim 32. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, wherein the cover layer is light transmissive.

Claim 33. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, wherein the cover layer is transparent.

Claim 34. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, wherein the light pipe is made of an acrylic polymer material.

Claim 35. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, wherein the light pipe is a fiber optic.

Claim 36. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, wherein the light source is a light emitting diode.

Claim 37. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, further comprising a plurality of light pipes.

Claim 38. (Original) The automotive trim panel of claim 29, further comprising a colored filter in series with the light source to change the color of the exiting light.

Claim 39-49. (Canceled)

Claims 50-59 (New)

50. (New) An automotive trim panel, comprising:
forming a light transmissive pliable cover layer having a first side and a second side,
forming a light blocking layer covering at least a portion of the transmissive layer,
providing a light source located on the first side of the light transmissive layer, the light blocking layer allowing light to travel from the light source through the transmissive layer to the second side only where the light blocking layer is not present.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said pliable cover layer has an elongation of 150%.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said pliable cover layer has a tensile strength below 5000 psi.

53. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said pliable cover layer has a Shore Hardness between 60-100A.

54. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising a foam layer.

55. (New) A method of back lighting an automotive trim panel, comprising:
forming a light transmissive cover layer having a front surface and rear surface,
providing a light pipe having a first end and a second end, and a light source,
wherein said first end of said light pipe is positioned adjacent to said rear surface of the cover layer and said second end is positioned adjacent said light source.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said cover layer has an elongation of 150%.

57. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said cover layer has a tensile strength of 5000 psi.

58. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said cover layer has a Shore Hardness between 60-100A.

59. (New) The method of claim 55, further comprising a foam layer.